U.S. Food and Drug Administration

FDA News



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FDA Approves OTC Claritin

FDA has approved Claritin (loratadine) as an over-the-counter (OTC) allergy drug product. Previously available only as a prescription drug, Claritin is approved for seasonal allergic rhinitis -- a condition that causes runny nose, nasal congestion, sneezing, and itchy nose, throat, eyes, and ears.

"By making it easier to get this widely-used drug, today's action will enable many people to get less-sedating, effective relief for their allergy symptoms more quickly and at a lower cost," said Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., Commissioner of Food and Drugs. "This approval reflects FDA's commitment to bringing prescription drugs to the over-the-counter market when they can be safely used without a prescription."

Claritin's approval for OTC marketing was based on FDA's criteria for determining appropriate drugs for OTC use - namely that the drug in question treats a condition that consumers can diagnose and manage themselves; that the drug is sufficiently safe for use by consumers without direct prescriber supervision; and that the drug's label explains potential adverse effects and conditions of use with clear and understandable directions. When drugs move from prescription to OTC status the price typically declines.

Today's action also marks a milestone in FDA's work with the National Transportation Safety Board to improve public awareness of the concerns about possible impairment caused by certain prescription and OTC drug products that cause drowsiness. Because OTC antihistamines already on the market may cause drowsiness, the FDA requires them to carry warnings about using them while driving or operating machinery. This new approval offers many consumers a potentially safer alternative to currently-available OTC drugs that may contribute to driving impairment.

Approximately 10 to 30 percent of adults in the United States suffer from seasonal allergy symptoms. In April 1993, Claritin was approved as one of the first new generation antihistamines developed to be less sedating than traditional antihistamines.

Claritin is manufactured by Schering-Plough based in Kenilworth, N.J.

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Search results from the "OB_OTC" table for query on "020641."

Active Ingredient:

LORATADINE

Dosage Form; Route:

SYRUP; ORAL

Proprietary Name:

CLARITIN

Applicant:

SCHERING

Strength:

1MG/ML

Application Number:

020641

Product Number:

002

Approval Date:

Nov 27, 2002

Reference Listed Drug

Yes

RX/OTC/DISCN:

OTC

Patent and Exclusivity Info for this product: View

Active Ingredient:

LORATADINE

Dosage Form; Route:

SYRUP; ORAL

Proprietary Name:

CLARITIN HIVES RELIEF

Applicant:

SCHERING

Strength:

1MG/ML

Application Number:

020641

Product Number:

003

Approval Date:

Nov 19, 2003 Yes

Reference Listed Drug RX/OTC/DISCN:

OTC

Patent and Exclusivity Info for this product: View

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Patent and Exclusivity Search Results from query on Appl No 020641 Product 003 in the OB_OTC list.

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Patent Data

There are no unexpired patents for this product in the Orange Book Database.

[Note: Title I of the 1984 Amendments does not apply to drug products submitted or approved under the former Section 507 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (antibiotic products). Drug products of this category will not have patents listed.]

Exclusivity Data

There is no unexpired exclusivity for this product.

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Search results from the "OB_OTC" table for query on "019658."

Active Ingredient:

LORATADINE

Dosage Form: Route:

TABLET; ORAL

Proprietary Name:

CLARITIN

Applicant:

SCHERING

Strength:

10MG

Application Number:

019658

Product Number: Approval Date:

Nov 27, 2002

Reference Listed Drug

Yes

RX/OTC/DISCN:

002

Patent and Exclusivity Info for this product: View

OTC

LORATADINE

Dosage Form:Route:

TABLET: ORAL

Proprietary Name:

Active Ingredient:

CLARITIN HIVES RELIEF

Applicant:

SCHERING

Strength:

10MG

Application Number:

019658

Product Number:

003

Approval Date:

Nov 19, 2003

Reference Listed Drug

Yes

RX/OTC/DISCN:

OTC

Patent and Exclusivity Info for this product: View

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Patent and Exclusivity Search Results from query on Appl No 019658 Product 003 in the OB_OTC list.

Patent Data

There are no unexpired patents for this product in the Orange Book Database.

[Note: Title I of the 1984 Amendments does not apply to drug products submitted or approved under the former Section 507 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (antibiotic products). Drug products of this category will not have patents listed.]

Exclusivity Data

There is no unexpired exclusivity for this product.

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